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**FY 2007 Teacher Quality Improvement Grant Program  
Pre-Application Conference  
Monday, May 14, 2007  
QS & As**

**1. Can you tell me if a private elementary school, K-8 in Camp Hill PA is eligible? I am interested in passing news of this grant to Good Shepherd School's administrators.**

A: Unfortunately, this school would not be eligible to apply. According to the RFA, "Services must be provided in the District of Columbia, at the applicant's university or college, DC public or private school or other suitable facilities approved by the State Education Office".

**2. Is the grant period for one year?**

A: No, the grant is during the summer only. It begins at the date of the grant award and ends September 30, 2007.

**3. Are teacher stipends permitted?**

A: Yes.

**4. Are funds being used for follow-up mandated?**

A: No, it is not mandated. All allowable service expenditures must occur by 9/30/07. However, we encourage programs to provide follow up services on their own.

**5. Funds must be spent by September 30, 2007?**

A: No, services must be provided by September 30, 2007.

**6. In the Application Format portion of the RFA, if "Not counted in page total" is NOT indicated, does this mean that there are no restrictions, i.e., the Table of Contents and Applicant Profile?**

A: The Application Profile is a form that is to be completed and the Table of Contents has no restrictions.

**7. Who are the current Teacher Quality Grantees?**

A: American University, Health Education Literacy Partnership, Multicultural Intern Program, UDC, and UKnow.

**8. Are these grantees working as a consortium?**

A: No, they are individual grantees, participating in separate partnerships.

**9. How can we get a list of the GEAR UP schools?**

A: The GEAR UP schools are listed on the SEO web page at [www.seo.dc.gov](http://www.seo.dc.gov).

**10. Can you explain the year-round piece and what the program is expected to look like next year?**

A: We anticipate beginning in the fall of next year with the competition potentially starting in spring next year.

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**11. The real due date for submitting applications is June 8?**

A: Yes. And the RFA has been corrected on the website to reflect this as well.

**12. An applicant can be a higher education institution, LEAs, non-profit organization, etc.? Who is exactly an “applicant”?**

A: Yes, any one of those institutions can be an applicant but the 3 members listed in the RFA must be present in order to receive funding.

**13. Can a new applicant be a non-profit organization?**

A: As long as you partner with the three other members, it can be an applicant.

**14. Are the increment payments to be made in the beginning, middle and end of grant period?**

A: Yes, 25% early, 25% mid-way and 50% at the end. Funded programs must send a progress report with the first and second invoices and a final report with the third.

**15. Should the payment information be spelled out in the budget portion of the application?**

A: Yes. It will let our office know in advance if you need your 25% up front. Though there are no guarantees that funds will be available up front.

**16. Will the more formal monitoring process be in addition to the site visit?**

A: No. The site visits this year will encompass the monitoring process.

**17. Does the higher education institution have to be located in the District of Columbia?**

A: Yes, the main campus must be located in the District.

**18. How would you define “technology”?**

A: We do not have a written definition for “technology”.

**19. An applicant university with a partnership with their College of Education within their College of Arts and Sciences and the local educational agency is required. Additional individual schools of the same local high-need educational agency are acceptable in the partnership, but not necessary?** An applicant university with a partnership with their College of Education **AND** their College of Arts and Sciences. The division of Education doesn't have to be within the College of Arts and Sciences, they can be separate. Additional individual schools **“may”** be included per section B of the “Eligible Organizations/Entities” section of the RFA.

**20. Does the applicant have to comply with all three of the Agency’s priorities, or are one or two priorities adequate?** Peer and staff review scores will be reflective of the extent to which applicants meet the three priorities

**21. Given the lateness of the award, can the closing date be moved to September 30, 2008?**

Unfortunately, the grant period for 2007 cannot be extended. But the SEO will initiate the 2008 grant much earlier, specifically fall 2008, with the competition potentially beginning in spring 2008.

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**22. The university will not make payments until the cash is in the system here. Will the provision of Purchase Orders that cover the grant amount suffice the expenditure commitment report and move the monies into the applicant agency spending account?**

**Can all Purchase Orders be accepted immediately and result in the receipt of all monies at one early time?** We understand that this is the way that some organizations do business. We are NOT permitted to present 100% of funding in advance. On a case by case basis we MAY be able to present a percentage of the grant in advance for start up costs, the rest would have to be received via invoices, with no less than 50% being received AFTER the final date of the program.

**23. Is there a list of Frequently Asked Questions available?** No, not at the moment. But on May 29, 2007, a list of the Qs & As that were asked at the Pre-Application Conference on May 14, 2007, and sent via e-mail will be posted to our website at [www.seo.dc.gov](http://www.seo.dc.gov). Additional questions will not be entertained after May 25, 2007.

**24. I am certain that the date of May 25 is a mistake and the proposal is due on June 8.** Yes, June 8<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for submissions and our website ([www.seo.dc.gov](http://www.seo.dc.gov)) currently reflects the correct deadline.

**25. Our school is currently a pre-K - 4<sup>th</sup> grade school adding the middle and upper grades one per year. The priorities of the grant seemed to give funding preference to 5 grade and up. We will serve 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the coming year. Would our school fall within the grant priorities?** While we do strongly encourage applicants to follow the priorities established as stated in the RFA, applicants will be specifically scored on how they have addressed the Criterion.

**26. Is it possible to get a copy of a project description to use a guide in preparing one for this year's grant?** We do not have a project description of the program, so we cannot provide one. But you may contact the 2006 applicants – American University, Health Education Literacy Partnership, Multicultural Career Intern Program, UDC, and UKnow – directly and ask if you may obtain a copy of their description.